

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHAEL J. SCHMEDLEN NAMED ACTING CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT; SHARI M. OBERG TO SERVE AS ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER; LYNN K. RICHARDSON NAMED COURT'S ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSEL

LANSING, MI, March 18, 2005 – In the wake of the untimely death of Michigan Supreme Court Chief Commissioner Glen M. Bis, the Court announced today that Michael J. Schmedlen of Laingsburg, formerly the Court's Deputy Chief Commissioner, has been named Acting Chief Commissioner. The Court also announced that Shari M. Oberg of Brighton has been named the Court's Acting Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The appointments mean that Schmedlen and Oberg will oversee the work of the Supreme Court Commissioners, the Court's permanent legal staff. The Commissioners review applications for leave to appeal to the Court and report to the Justices on the contents of those applications. The Commissioners also provide research and support to the Court on a wide variety of other matters.

Schmedlen joined the Supreme Court Commissioners' Office in 1988 after 15 years in private practice with the Lansing law firm of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith. He became an equity shareholder of the firm in 1979 and vice president of the firm in 1987. His practice emphasized litigation and labor law, as well as constitutional cases. In the 1970s and 1980s, Schmedlen served on the Supreme Court's Standard Jury Instruction Committee and the State Bar's Civil Procedure Committee. He received his undergraduate degree with distinction from the University of Michigan in 1969; he also graduated *cum laude* from the University of Michigan Law School in 1973. He and his wife Judy reside in Laingsburg.

Oberg began her career in private practice as an associate with the Detroit-based law firm of Dickinson Wright PLLC, which she joined in 1994. Oberg, who specialized in appellate litigation, was subsequently elected a member of the firm. She joined the Supreme Court Commissioners' Office in 2002. Oberg graduated with high distinction from the University of Michigan in 1989 and received her law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law in 1994. She and her husband Erik reside in Brighton.

The Court also announced that Lynn K. Richardson of East Lansing has been named the Court's Acting Administrative Counsel.

Richardson began her legal career as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge John Feikens. She then joined the U.S. Attorney's Offices in Detroit, Michigan and San Francisco, California, where she specialized in civil litigation. In 1987, Richardson joined the litigation department of the Lansing law

firm of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.; she later joined the Farmington Hills firm of Finkel, Whitefield & Selik, P.C., where she specialized in labor and employment law. Richardson joined the Supreme Court Commissioners' Office in 1994. Richardson received her undergraduate degree in 1974 from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and her law degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston in 1980. In 1979, she earned a graduate degree in biomedical sciences from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

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